

Recognized Authority on  
Connellsville Coke Trade.

# Weekly The Courier

Circulates Wherever Coke  
is Manufactured or Used.

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EIGHT PAGES.

## Prices and Prospects.

### DECLINE IN COKE PRICES THOUGHT TO BE TEMPORARY

The Causes That Led to the  
Tumble All Ephemeral  
in Character.

### PRICES FIRMLY HELD AT \$3.00

By the Fact That Consumers Drop Low  
Grade Cokes Now That Supply More  
Than Equals Demand; Negotiations  
Halted; Prices of Coke and Pig.

**PITTSBURGH, Feb. 5.**—The slump in coke prices continued during the past week, until now \$3.00 is the top of the market for prompt furnace, making a decline of 50 cents for the week and \$1.00 for the fortnight. Sales have been very light, and hardly more than enough coke has changed hands to establish a market. The decline is attributed to a temporary decrease in consumptive requirements, rather than an increase in production or decrease in buying demand. All these influences have been factors, however. The light demand has naturally had some influence, while the increase in production, say 25,000 tons a week, has necessarily been an important factor. The most important influence undoubtedly has been the decreased requirements, due to furnaces working badly, being overstocked, or starting to use coke from elsewhere. Thus the coke plant at the Midland furnace is now producing, taking 10,000 tons a month from the standard, which went to Connellsville. At half a dozen points smaller shipments are being taken, and in some of these cases the decrease is large. To an extent the condition is a temporary one, promising to be righted in the course of a few weeks. The production of pig iron is not being reduced, but continues at a heavy rate, fully 10 per cent, taking the average production during 1912, in excess of the average production of 1911. According to some astute observers, the present slump in prompt furnace coke prices is one that should have occurred at the beginning of January, and would have occurred then but for ill-advised buying at that time on the part of several furnaces. It is claimed that they did not need additional coke, but bought because they feared bad weather and hold-ups in delivery. Thus they gave an artificial support to the market, preventing it from declining early in January, but accumulated coke which they must now work off, at the expense of the current shipments.

While the prompt furnace coke market is quotable at \$3.00, it is to be noted that this is for standard coke, whereas when the market was \$4.00 and \$4.50, the material was usually not foundry coke at all; indeed, more frequently than not it was not even shipped in box cars. For standard foundry coke the market is quotable at \$3.00 to \$4.15, but such quotations refer simply to single carloads of well selected coke. Such material is brought in a few weeks ago could now be had at around \$3.00. With a rapidly slumping market it is natural that there should be no important negotiations for contract coke, and it requires negotiations to bring out definite prices for if operators state off-hand what they would take on contract for coke the figure is not likely to be of particular interest, or to be even remotely suggestive of what would actually be done should a buyer undertake to reduce sellers to their lowest terms. As the outside asking price on contract furnace coke \$3.00 can be named, and this may be given as the nominal market. We quote as follows:

Prompt furnace ..... \$3.00  
Prompt foundry (nominal) ..... \$3.00  
Contract foundry ..... \$3.00 to \$4.15  
The pig iron averages for January, computed by W. P. Snyder & Company from the actual tonnage sales reported, are announced at \$17.25, Valley, for Bessemer and \$16.45, Valley, for Basic. There was nearly 50,000 tons of Bessemer iron figured in the average but only 5,000 tons of Basic. The present quoted market is \$17.25 for Bessemer and \$16.50 for Basic, with \$17.50 named on Foundry iron, these prices being 7 c. b. Valley furnaces, 30 cents higher delivered Pittsburgh. The foundry iron market is weak and it is doubtful whether the price could be secured.

### BIG COAL YIELD.

Inspector Cunningham Reports on  
Output for Past Year.

There were 5,229,000 tons of coal mined in the twenty-first bituminous district of Pennsylvania during 1912, according to the report of Mine Inspector F. W. Cunningham.

### THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY OF THE STEEL CORPORATION

Once More Stands the Steel Market.  
Crude Materials Show Softness.  
The Future Uncertain.

Special to The Weekly Courier.

NEW YORK, February 5.—The American Metal Market and Daily Iron & Steel Report will review the iron and steel situation tomorrow morning as follows:

"Steel boiler tubes has been advanced one point, or about \$2 a ton, effective February 1st. This is the fifth advance on the movement, making a total of about \$10 a ton. The mills are already well filled with business until midsummer. The independents have not succeeded in establishing 1.50 as the basis for second half business in plates and shapes. Evidently they expected the United States Steel Corporation to fill up at its 1.45c price and throw the market into their hands, but the Steel Corporation has as a rule been selling for second-half delivery only against specific jobs, while it now announces that it will not make an advance for any delivery this year, unless circumstances should change entirely.

"The Steel Corporation's extreme conservatism throughout this movement, whereby prices have advanced much less than would otherwise have been the case, is now bearing fruit in a strong and steady steel market when for several weeks the outside influences have been altogether adverse. There is no weakness in the steel market at any point. The enormous tonnage of business on books is proving altogether sound by the continuance of heavy specifications to show softness. Pig iron has declined at several points. Since the middle of December our composite pig iron has declined about 25 cents. Connellsville coke has slumped further in the past week, making \$3.00 the top price for prompt furnace coke, against \$4.00 ruling for early November until about a fortnight ago. Old material, which has been weak since about the beginning of November, has weakened further, and there seems to be no absorbing power at all. Definite predictions for the future of the market cannot be based upon present conditions. There are inconsistencies which must be removed before a clear view can be taken, but the situation will doubtless be materials cannot remain weak if finished steel remains strong, and if finished steel products stay where they are, the steel market will come down; present famine prices cannot make a regular market for billets and sheet bars."

### A COAL BARON

Weisman, Now in This Country, Biggest Man in English Industry.

David Alfred Thomas, the Welsh coal king, who is in this country looking over coal properties with a view to investment for the Panama canal, is the First Baron of the British coal trade. He commands more capital, employs more men and produces more coal than any other operator in Great Britain. He is very approachable and is widely known. He is everywhere affectionately spoken of as "D. A. His residence is a beautiful palace, standing in a great park near Newport, in Monmouthshire, while his business offices in Cardiff are the most palatial buildings in all Wales. He is Newport Park, he breeds the choicest stock, and, successful in this as in all other things, he has carried off first prize, making Sir George Thomas the first of second prize, at the National Agricultural Show.

### URGES TRAINING

Kentucky Mine Inspector Makes Plea  
for First Aid Work.

Kentucky coal operators are receiving from State Inspector of Mines C. J. Norwood a letter in which he lays stress upon the importance of the training of miners in safety work and urges that advantage be taken of the presence in the State of the special instruction car sent out by the United States Bureau of Mines. The fact that many men have died from the loss of blood, shock, blood poisoning and like secondary consequences of comparatively small injuries is advanced as a reason for first aid training. Mr. Norwood asks that the operators take advantage of the first-aid contest to be held at Lexington next May by the Kentucky Mining Institute to arouse the interest of their employees by the organization of teams to take part in the competition.

### COAL COMPANY ELECTION.

Lacelle Management Reports Progress  
as Satisfactory.

The annual meeting of the Lacelle Mining company took place at Greensburg, January 21. The officers' reports showed satisfactory progress, and the mines at Bolivar to be in good condition with the product meeting a very satisfactory market. The Board of Directors organized by electing the following officers: N. A. Barnhart, President and General Manager; A. C. Snelvy, Secretary; Albert H. Bell, Treasurer. An Executive Committee of three was elected as follows: J. R. Marshall, J. R. Marshall, H. C. Ackerman of Greensburg and B. S. Hamill of Pittsburgh.

### Propose Change in Contracts.

Producers of smokeless coal in West Virginia and Pennsylvania are offering contracts for April 1 for a nine month period, in an effort to base future contracts, beginning with 1914, on the calendar year.

## Review of the Connellsville Coke Trade.

### Statistical Summary.

PRODUCTION.	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1913.	WEEK ENDING JANUARY 25, 1913.
DISTRICT.	Ovens. In. Out. Tons.	Ovens. In. Out. Tons.
Connellsville	22,381 18,233 1,151 233,550	22,381 18,207 1,177 229,010
Lower Connellsville	16,428 11,779 1,068 189,203	16,428 11,784 1,074 186,342
Totals	38,822 30,003 2,219 422,753	38,822 32,971 2,251 415,352
FURNACE OVENS.		
Connellsville	18,070 14,647 3,423 187,811	18,070 14,617 3,453 184,079
Lower Connellsville	5,812 4,369 912 65,810	5,812 4,945 907 61,078
Totals	23,882 19,016 4,335 253,621	23,882 19,562 4,360 245,157
MERCHANT OVENS.		
Connellsville	4,314 3,586 728 45,930	4,314 3,560 751 44,961
Lower Connellsville	10,626 8,991 725 128,810	10,626 8,910 707 125,264
Totals	14,940 12,577 1,453 174,740	14,940 12,470 1,458 170,225
SHIPMENTS.		
To Pittsburgh	4,445 Cars.	4,303 Cars.
To Points West of Pittsburgh	7,128 Cars.	7,117 Cars.
To Points East of the Region	901 Cars.	876 Cars.
Totals	12,474 Cars.	12,296 Cars.

### DR. MCLENATHAN BUYS COAL IN OHIO; \$100,000 INVOLVED

Deal is Closed for Transfer  
of 1,500 Acre  
Tract.

### WAYNESBURG MAN THE SELLER

Property, Bank Stock and \$60,000 in Cash is Paid to W. F. Patterson in the Transaction; Local Physician Takes Over Land as a Speculation.

One of the largest coal deals that has been made in Connellsville in years was concluded last week when Dr. J. C. McClenathan purchased 1,500 acres of coal land located in Monroe county, Ohio, from W. F. Patterson of Waynesburg. The amount involved in the transaction was \$100,000. The deal was made through the agency of Robinson & Coughenour.

Located in the heart of one of the greatest coal producing regions in Ohio, the property is most valuable. Through its length runs the Pittsburgh No. 8 gauge, which carries in thickness from 7 to 12 feet. The coal is of the best. Within a short distance of the property runs a branch of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad and a mile away is the branch of the Clearfield. Clearfield is a town of several thousand inhabitants and labor can be easily mined.

With thousands of tons being mined annually in Ohio, Monroe county coal is not being developed. Tests which have been made over the county show that the coal underlying the surface is of excellent quality. While the new owner has not given out his plans regarding the property, it is understood that it was purchased as a speculation. Attorney T. H. Dunn of Waynesburg represented Mr. Patterson's interests in the transaction. Mr. Patterson has numerous interests in Connellsville and is known to many of the residents of town. By this transaction he becomes one of the largest stockholders in the Title & Trust Company of Western Pennsylvania. Dr. McClenathan, as part of the transaction, transferred \$20,000 worth of stock in that institution. This stock, together with the \$80,000 worth he owned previously, gives the doctor a commanding position in the affairs of the bank. Aside from the stock transfer, Mr. Patterson received two valuable properties located in the heart of Connellsville, which are valued at \$20,000, and \$60,000 in cash. One of the properties is situated on West Apple street and the other is located on Washington avenue. The Washington avenue property is a large double house, one side of which is occupied by Clyde Whiteley, and the other by the family of Mrs. Overby. On West Apple street the property in the deal is a frame structure, located near the First Methodist Church.

### THE COAL TRADE

#### Sudden Change in Weather Stimulates Domestic Market.

The sudden change in the weather stimulated the domestic fuel market, but has little effect upon the general trade. Coal men are generally overstocked and consumers complain about slow deliveries. The market is much firmer in tone. The coal supply has been good, but not by any means up to capacity. Pittsburgh operators are standing firm for \$1.40 on mine run coal and get the price without difficulty. Some smaller operators are underselling but the practice is not general. Interesting developments affecting the Lake movement are expected. It is said that new interests will enter the market, not now favorably situated. There has been a migration of smaller operators into the Pittsburgh district. Many of them have come into the coke region.

### COMMISSIONERS INCREASE COAL VALUATION OF COUNTY

Fayette Officials Add \$100 an Acre to Assessment of Connellsville Coke Region.

The Fayette County Commissioners met last week and made the county tax levy for 1913. The levy was placed at five mills, the same as last year, one-fifth, or one mill, to be expended upon the county roads. Out of the road tax the Commissioners expect to realize \$300,000. The improvement of main thoroughfares during the coming summer, over along this line having already been given a good start.

In order to meet additional revenues required under the estimate of the County Controller for the ensuing year, the Commissioners decided to collect the tax from the coal owners. As a consequence, the valuation has been raised. Connellsville and Lower Connellsville regions are assessed \$100 per acre, while an additional \$50 an acre is assessed against the Springfield township field.

Connellsville's coal is increased from \$550 an acre to \$650; the Lower Connellsville from \$450 to \$550; and the Springfield from \$250 to \$350. The total increase is \$84,250.00, an increase of \$5,297,500 over the valuation based upon the last triennial assessment.

Of this amount, the coal is valued at \$40,207,500 and other property at \$14,047,000.

### DOMESTIC COKE

#### Little of the Connellsville Output Reaches That Market.

Coke is becoming a rapidly increasing factor in the domestic fuel trade. This was emphasized by Fenwick C. Atwell of Chicago, who discussed the marketing of coke before the Chicago Coal Dealers' Association. The marketing of the coke for domestic purposes at the present time is said to be a by-product of gas companies. The by-product coke also market much for that trade. Very little Connellsville coke reaches the domestic market. Crushed coke is the fuel in greatest demand, and there are at present only three crushers in this section. Two in the Lower Connellsville region and one in the Upper Connellsville field, near Littleton.

### MAHONING PLANT TO BE REVIVED AGAIN; COAL TRACT LEASED

Connellsville Capital to Reconstruct Old Coke Works.

### BUY OVENS FROM CAMBRIA STEEL

Fifteen Acres of Connellsville Coal and 170 Acres of the Adjoining Sewickley Vein Purchased from J. L. Paul by J. M. Grey and K. K. Kramer.

After having been buried for a number of years, the old Mahoning coke plant at Dunbar has been resurrected by J. M. Grey and K. K. Kramer. The plant is being reconstructed by James L. Paul on property 15 acres of Connellsville coal and 170 acres of the Sewickley vein, adjacent and attached to the plant. The purchasers have applied for a charter and will operate the plant under the corporate name of the Mahoning Coal & Coke Company. The old ovens are in a fair condition and the new works expect to have them ready for operation in a couple of weeks, when the plant will be started. The Mahoning plant is one of the oldest in the Connellsville region. It was built in the late 70's by the Mahoning Coke Company, in which the Pauls were interested. It was operated by this company, for upwards of 20 years. It was then purchased by the Cambria Steel Company and christened Atlas No. 2. The original plant consisted of 100 ovens, but these were cut down to 85 by the Cambria ownership.

The Cambria Steel Company operated the Wheeler and Morrell plants, but these were abandoned some years ago. The original Atlas plant, and the acquired Mahoning plant, were operated until a few years ago, when the Cambria concern retired from the ranks of Connellsville coke producers.

### NEARING COMPLETION

By-Product Coke Will Be Made at Connellsville Plant.

The new by-product coke plant being built by the Midway Process Company for Connellsville capitalists and others is rapidly nearing completion and coke will be turned out early in the spring, says the Chicago Black Diamond. An increase in capacity has been made recently so that 1,500 tons of coke will be consumed to produce over 600 tons of coke a day. This coke may be taken from a variety of sources, ranging from the Pocahontas, Kanawha and Pennsylvania coals to the new fields of Kentucky which, though they have not yet been produced suitably by thorough testing, may some day be the chief coal consumed. The plant being located on the Ohio river it will be possible to bring coal down by boat from Putzburgh, while the same cheap method of transportation may be used to deliver to markets the coke and other products. Within a radius of 55 miles are about 65 furnaces which will afford a good market for the new venture and already assure its profitability.

### WINS LONG FIGHT.

Baltimore Man Wins Verdict from Brokerage Firm.

In a long drawn out fight Charles W. Hendley of Baltimore, was the past week awarded a verdict for \$125 against J. D. Durheim & Company of Philadelphia. The suit was the outcome of a refusal to take a portion of some coal ordered. Hendley the jur awarded interest in addition to the bulk of the bill, but this was reversed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland. On appeal the award was as above, no interest being allowed.

## Production and Output.

### COKE PRICES AT PRINCIPAL POINTS OF CONSUMPTION

Demand is Less Insistent but the Market is Steady; Prices are Somewhat Lower.

Prices and demand for coke at the principal points of consumption and distribution reflects the situation here in the Connellsville region. Prices are lower and demand is not so insistent. At Chicago the market is steady but the volume of demand is smaller. Connellsville and West county coals are quoted on a parity of 35.00 delivered; by-product coke, 75 cents less.

At Cleveland the spot market is weaker, but prices hold too firmly to suit the outcome of the uncovered or inactive furnaces. Who will hold out for lower contract rates. Spot furnace is offered at \$3.90, but contract as held at the same level. Foundry coals are held a dollar higher, all at ovens.

At Cincinnati there is a weaker market and lower prices. Some furnaces in that vicinity have blown out for refitting and operators have been asked to suspend coke shipments. West county coals sell 35c lower than Connellsville coals and Pocahontas and New River coals sell 25c under West county.

At Detroit there has been a marked falling off in demand, and some of the local by-product ovens have closed down.

At Philadelphia, first grade Connellsville furnace coke is reported as having been offered in 5,000 and 10,000-ton lots at \$3 for first half contracts, with hesitating takers.

### OUTSIDE OVENS FIRED

And to Be Used Affecting the Coke Trade of the Connellsville Region.

The announcement was made this week that the Pennsylvania Coal & Land furnace plant and will coke Greene coal in them. The ovens have been divided into 12,000 tons a month. The Crucible's coal output from its Greene county plant is limited until the main headings of the mine have been driven and the capacity increased. By-product ovens will also be built at Midland, to run on this coal, which is floated down the river on barges.

The announcement was made this week that the Pennsylvania Coal & Coke Company was prepared to fire up 1,000 ovens in the Mahoning region, taking water and has considerable tonnage booked for this coke. In view of this week's coke trade condition, it is probable that there will be an general rising up of the Mahoning region.

### COKE FREIGHT RATES

From the Connellsville Region to Chief Points of Consumption.

Freight rates from Connellsville to principal points of consumption are as follows:

### WESTERN POINTS.

Pittsburgh ..... \$3.30  
Cleveland ..... 1.45  
Columbus ..... 1.45  
Canton ..... 1.45  
Toledo ..... 1.45  
Detroit ..... 2.10  
Chicago ..... 2.10  
St. Louis ..... 2.20  
Buffalo ..... 2.20

### EASTERN POINTS.

Richmond ..... \$1.85  
Baltimore ..... 1.85  
Harrisburg ..... 1.85  
Philadelphia ..... 2.15  
New York ..... 2.15  
Gay and Jelliff take the Chicago rates. The rates quoted are on both foundry and furnace coke. There is no longer any discrimination between the products.

### THE TREND OF TRADE

In the Connellsville Coke Region During the Past Eight Years.

The following table gives the number of ovens in operation, production and shipments for the corresponding week from 1906 to date in the Connellsville and Lower Connellsville coke regions.

Year. Ovens in Output Shipments.

1906 ..... 2,000 12,125 12,125  
1907 ..... 2,000 12,125 12,125  
1908 ..... 2,000 12,125 12,125  
1909 ..... 2,000 12,125 12,125  
1910 ..... 2,000 12,125 12,125  
1911 ..... 2,000 12,125 12,125  
1912 ..... 2,000 12,125 12,125  
1913 ..... 2,000 12,125 12,125

### LAKE RATES ADVANCE

Carriers Will Get Five Cents a Ton More for 1913 Trade.

The most important feature of the week to the Lake shippers was the consummation of negotiations for shipment when negotiation is reported to have been completed. The rate agreed upon is 37 cents, an advance of two cents over the 1912 rate.

### Inspect Coal Properties.

Officials of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh railway last week made a quarterly inspection of the line along the coal land recently acquired. The company now has under option about 11,000 acres of coal land belonging to the New York Central. It is being predicted that the Buffalo & Pittsburgh will double track its Indiana branch in the near future.

### Ohio Gets Steel Company.

It is reported that the steel men who proposed to locate a plant here have decided to build at Canal Dover, Ohio.

### ACROBATIC FEATS OF CONNELLVILLE COKE PRODUCTION

Due to Buying of Frenzied Furnacemen to Cover Their Futures.

The acrobatic feats of Connellsville coke production during the past two months have been due to the frenzied condition of demand. Furnacemen worked themselves into a highly nervous state just prior to the holidays by the fear of having to buy for lack of sufficient fuel. They went long on all manner of coke futures, they bought anything in coke at any price. The Connellsville operators did not make the high prices of spot coke. It was the furnacemen who made them, and in the making the foundrymen had to pay their share in spite of the fact that they were innocent bystanders. The consuming interest is evidently overstocked with coke and a slowing down in operations is inevitable until some of the off-grades are eliminated. The flames being applied this week.

### CONSUMERS NOW OVERLOADED

And a Slowing Down in Connellsville Operations is Inevitable Until Some of the Off-Grades are Eliminated; The Flames Being Applied This Week.

Production last week aggregated 422,753 tons, an increase of 6,500 tons. The increase was proportionately divided, 4,000 tons coming from the furnace ovens and 2,500 tons from the merchant operators. The production went from ovens to cars, the shipments aggregating 12,474 cars, or 422,900 tons. The increase in shipments went principally to the furnaces of the Pittsburgh district. There will be a curbing in both shipments and production this week. Some furnaces have cut down their orders. For the first time in many weeks, coke will be stocked at the merchant ovens. There are now 33,000 out of the 38,000 ovens of the two regions in blast. The merchant operators are 13,475 active, 1,475 idle ovens, running over 90% full. The furnace interests have 19,516 active and 4,564 idle ovens. Their percentage of idle ovens is greater because of the fact that a number of old plants in the Connellsville region, which are being turned on the idle list, cannot be operated to anything like their normal capacity as represented by the number of their ovens. Out of 3,400 idle ovens in this district not over half of them could be operated.

There is always some coke stocked at the furnace ovens in pursuance of the Steel Corporation's policy of having a fuel surplus for emergency. But for divisions of the merchant operators stand stock as much as possible. They will stock some this week, because it is impracticable if not impossible to keep the region on short notice, and for the further reason that they will not want to blow out any more ovens of drop any more than they can help. The merchant operators are not likely to be the first to feel that the slump in demand promises to be temporary in character. They may possibly drop down to five cents per ton, but they will not be necessary, and keep their full quota of ovens under fire.

The record of production and shipments for the past seven weeks is as follows:

Week Ending	Production	Shipments
Dec. 31	412,115	41,682
Jan. 7	427,007	45,272
Jan. 14	421,201	34,891
Jan. 21	427,828	38,739
Jan. 28	430,282	42,697
Feb. 4	422,753	42,392

Production last week made a gain of 6,571 tons over the week before, the total being 422,753 tons as compared with 416,282 tons. The furnace ovens increased their production 1,541 tons, their coal being 2,495 tons against 246,017 tons the week before, while the merchant ovens made a gain of 2,500 tons, their total being 12,474 tons as compared with 12,225 tons.

A full six-day run was made at all the plants, the same as the preceding week. Shipments for the week aggregated 12,474 cars, distributed as follows: Pittsburgh district, 4,445 cars; to points west of Pittsburgh, 7,128 cars; to points east of the Connellsville region, 901 cars. Compared with shipments of the previous week this shows an increase of 142 cars in Pittsburgh shipments, an increase of 19 cars in Western shipments, and an increase of 25 cars in Eastern shipments, making a net increase of 186 cars.

The number of active ovens in the region was increased by the firing of 17 ovens at Union, 12 at Ada; 24 at Issabella and 11 scattering; total, 44. And at the New York Central, it is being predicted that the Buffalo & Pittsburgh will double track its Indiana branch in the near future.

### More Rails Ordered.

The Great Northern Railway Company has placed with the Cambria Steel Company an order for 5,000 tons of steel rails, to be for a supplyment to a larger order placed by the company some months ago.











## NEW THIRD CLASS CITY LEGISLATION PROPOSED

Eleven Members, Five Without Pay, is Plan McKeesport  
Assemblyman Offers Legislature.

### THE CONTROLLER IS RETAINED

County Units for Local Option Meets  
Favor of Anti-Saloon League Men  
and They Will Propose Such Legis-

HARRISBURG, Jan. 30.—A new bill providing for a third class city government for third class cities embracing the initiative, referendum and recall, is to be introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Thomas A. Steele of McKeesport. The proposed bill provides for a compact form of government composed of 11 officers, five of whom serve without pay.

The bill will provide for a Council of five members who will serve without pay. The other city officials are Mayor, City Treasurer, Controller and three City Assessors.

The Mayor, City Treasurer and Controller will be elected for four years. The Mayor, City Treasurer, Controller and the Assessors will be paid.

Dr. Steele proposes to take the appointive power from the Mayor and give it to the Council with the appointive power and give the Mayor only executive power. This will make the police department and other branches of the government come under the direct supervision of the Council.

The proposed third class city measure includes the initiative, referendum and recall for all officials of third class cities. On petition of one-fourth of the electors of the city, the Mayor will call an election to refer any proposed ordinance or the proposed recall of any official to a vote of the people. The proposed bill has been introduced to several third class city legislatures, who say that it is the best measure that has been suggested yet for third class cities.

At a meeting of the members of the House of Representatives last night called by the Rev. Dr. Charles W. Carroll, State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, it was decided that a local option measure making counties and municipalities of more than 10,000 population the unit, should be presented to the Legislature. About 35 representatives attended the caucus. The caucus was declared to have been the largest gathering of members favoring local option ever held under the auspices of the Anti-Saloon League.

Alonso S. Armstrong, of Clearfield county, chairman of the Law and Order Committee, was made chairman of the meeting. He declared that the bill would not be negative in committee. He said that he had received from even the opponents of the bill that it would be reported out of committee as committed.

Samuel S. Scott of Philadelphia, an independent, advocated making the wards in cities, boroughs and townships the units in the bill presented last session.

Cornelius Carson of Washington county, outlined what he termed a progressive plan for local option. He wanted a bill introduced allowing wards in cities or boroughs to be a first unit; cities and towns a second unit and counties a third unit. If the entire vote of the county was "dry," a majority, the entire county would be "dry." If the "wet" carried the county, the "dry" carried the city or town. If the city or town voted "wet" and a ward voted "dry," the ward would be "dry." This plan was not popular with the other members.

It was declared at the conference that if the proposed bill making county units passes the Legislature, all counties in the State will vote "dry." On the vote on the units 14 members favored the county unit and nine the ward unit. Several members, however, the meeting was over in order to catch trains.

The local option bill will be opposed by some of the county members. Reuben Howard having declared that he has made no pledges for or against the bill. Dr. Thomas A. Steele of McKeesport, will oppose the measure. He will work for the passage of his resolution for a constitutional amendment for prohibition.

The public utility bills which have been presented to the House will be reported to committee for some time. A statement made this morning by Frank H. Rockwell, chairman of the Judiciary General Committee, to which the bills were referred. Mr. Rockwell said that the bills will be held until all the public utility measures have been presented and then hearings will be held to decide on what bills to report.

An effort was made yesterday by Miss H. Kite of Erie county, to have the Legislature for April 15 as the final day of adjournment and to six either February 15 or March 1 as the final day for the presentation of bills. The effort was a failure among the representatives to get their bills through and has resulted in the committee working overtime and night sessions of the members of the Legislature.

The "dry" bills empowering boroughs to issue bonds for paving and sewerage and for the acquisition of sewers by boroughs of these owned by individuals or private corporations, are being delayed by the expense of the property owners benefited are placed on the third reading calendar for today.

The proposed early adjournment will receive the endorsement of the administration. Governor Tener recommends that the body only consider the most important bills.

The first bill to pass finally in the House today was that offered by Representative Stein of Allegheny, pro-

viding for an investigation of the company store system in this State. Assemblyman Harry Cochran of Fayette is one of the three Democrats chosen on the House Committee on Titles.

The bill giving women the right to vote in this State will come up this afternoon. Miss Lydia Stokes Adams, chairman of the State legislative committee of the Equal Suffrage League, declared that it was her belief that the bill would pass by a big majority.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 5.—The resolution to amend the Constitution to permit women to vote passed easily in the House this afternoon after an hour's debate. The vote being 130 to 70. Frank H. Rockwell of Tioga, opened the debate. Cochran and Howard of Fayette voted for the measure, Keegan and Goss opposing it.

Among the bills introduced in the House today was providing that the Panama exposition commission prepare a report of the cost of the trip to San Francisco, providing an additional judgeship in Cambria county; providing that cities be given the power to regulate mining beneath the surface; providing that the rabbit season be limited from October 15 to December 1.

The teachers' tenure of office bill, introduced last week by Senator Charles Francis Snyder, has come from the Education Committee with a favorable consideration and has passed that reading in the upper house. There is some indication that the measure will have easy sailing in the upper branch and there is strong sentiment in favor of it in the House.

The tenure of office bill provides that after September 1, next, school teachers who have taught for ten consecutive years in any school of the State, shall be employed permanently by that district and shall be removed only for misconduct or general incompetency. There is a strong feeling that this measure will not be opposed by the members of the House.

There is another bill that the teachers are interested in, the retirement fund bill. Senator Snyder said, "and I hope to get out of committee early next week. It may meet with obstacles that will not confront the tenure of office measure but nevertheless an aggressive fight will be waged for its enactment."

Following the passage of a resolution passed in the House of Representatives on January 22 demanding that the mercantile tax law be repealed, a bill introduced by Representative Bigelow submitted eight schedules covering the report.

Among other bills, the report shows that the National or Commonwealth Road Appropriation June 1, 1911 was \$300,000. Of this amount the charges incurred to 1912, 748,222, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$126,251.75.

The report of Commissioner is a large one, covering more than a hundred pages with maps and figures. Contending that the high cost of living in Pennsylvania is partly due to the mercantile tax and the tax paid by the consumer, County Commissioner J. Denny O'Neill, of Allegheny county, and A. M. Howes of Erie, President and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Retail Merchants Association, spoke at a public meeting of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives in favor of the repeal of the mercantile tax last yesterday.

The mercantile tax was declared by Mr. O'Neill as chief enemy of the people. He said that the tax was a good thing for a political machine to control. He said that the State does not need the revenue but if it should be in the hands of the people, the automobile tax, which he regards as a luxury instead of the goods on which the consumer pays the tax.

The leading speaker against the repeal was Miroslav Konchick of Philadelphia. He said that the tax had never worked a hardship on the merchants and advanced it because it is one of the oldest forms of taxation. Forty per cent of the mercantile tax, he said, comes from Philadelphia county and the large business concerns there did not concern themselves enough about its repeal to have a representative at the hearing.

The Ways and Means Committee will take action on the bill today. Representative C. C. Goss of Fayette has presented a bill empowering conductors or motormen to arrest persons disorderly on cars. The bill legalizing Sunday baseball has been negated by the Law and Order Committee. Representative Reuben Howard of Fayette was one of the members opposing the measure.

The Senate adopted unanimously the concurrent resolution requesting the committee on the fifth anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg to broaden its scope so as to invite all Union soldiers, sailors and marines of the Civil War now living in Pennsylvania, soldiers who served in commands known as the "emergency troops" and Confederate soldiers now citizens of Pennsylvania. The resolution was sent to the House.

January Checkers.—The first brood of chicks reported in Connelville this season is owned by Mrs. H. J. Williams of Sycamore street. Mrs. Williams set 15 eggs under one of her hens and 14 of them hatched.

The chicks are hatched and promise to develop into the town. They will be "springers" about the time spring chickens are bringing fancy prices.

Big Ads to Boost Churches.—Full page advertisements to boost religion in Williamsport are being used successfully. Ministers declare the space used in the newspapers has increased greatly since the Sunday school and church services.

## SIX FEET SIX TALL, ONLY 13, MAKES BOY CONSPICUOUS

Somerset County Lad is Still Growing  
and Claims the Western Pennsylvania Record.

Six feet six inches in height and still growing, Master Clyde Brantano of Somerset county, is at present attracting much attention. Although only thirteen years old, the youngster was compelled to don long trousers two years ago, long before his playmates began wearing them. His appearance is particularly conspicuous, while he is amusing himself on the playgrounds of the town park. To a stranger he looks like a full grown man.

Because of his abnormal height, the youngster is having a hard time in getting into his clothes. After purchasing a suit of clothes, he is unable to wear it more than three or four months before he is compelled to purchase them. His trousers and shirts have to be discarded after a few weeks. The boy's experience with his clothes are not the least of his troubles. At home a special bed is required for him to sleep in. On the playgrounds he is the object of ordinary mirth, his feet hang out inches beyond the coverings. Entering a door of ordinary height, he is required to stoop, and while walking through a house, his head frequently strikes against a chandelier. Friends of the boy expect that he will receive a letter from the makers of the standard for his appearance on the road.

## ANOTHER MURDER

Battle Near Brownsville Ends in  
Seventh Killing for This Year.

Mr. Otto Blase, 45 years old, of Republic, and Michael Jotti, an insurance agent, of the same town, fought a revolver duel near Elk Meadow run Sunday evening. Blase died from a bullet wound in the head. The spectators let Jotti escape. Blase was walking with a crowd of men on the tracks of the Monongahela railroad and they met Jotti near Elk Meadow run. Jotti and Blase engaged in a heated argument. The men stepped back and each is said to have drawn a revolver. The 20 men who were with Blase stepped aside and watched the duel. After several minutes the fight ended. Blase fell dead. He had been shot in the left ear, the bullet lodging in the brain. Jotti is well known among the foreign residents of Fayette county. The crime makes the seventh murder in the county since January 1.

## FORM JEWISH CLUB

Hebrew Young Men Organize Association of 40 Members.

Two hundred young Jewish men and their friends of Connelville, Mount Pleasant and Scottsdale, met in Markell hall Sunday and organized the Hebrew Young Men's Association. Rabbi Rudolph Coffe of Pittsburgh, was present and delivered an inspiring address, his theme being "The Promise of Israel of the Twentieth Century."

Following the address, officers and members of the association were elected. The officers are: President, Samuel Oppenheim; Vice President, Louis Goodman; Recording Secretary, Jack Horwitz; Financial Secretary, Leonard Treiman; Treasurer, A. Daniels; Trustees, E. Kulin, M. Groun and Julius Harris. Meetings of the association will be held twice a month, on the second and fourth Sundays.

## YUKON ON THE MAP

"Isaacs" Defends Two Prisoners and  
Jury Brings in Acquittal.

James Gibson and William Ash, members of the committee of the Yukon defense fund, were acquitted after the theft of silverware in a store in December, were acquitted in criminal court at Greensburg, yesterday. The silverware had been stolen from the home of Captain James P. Isaacs, known in newspaper circles as "Isaacs of Yukon," and Attorney H. W. Wilkinson.

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## WOULD LEGISLATE AGAINST MACHINES IN MINING OF RIBS

McDermott of Clearfield  
Proposes Changes in  
the Law.

## MERCANTILE TAX HARD FOUGHT

Only Three Dissenting Votes in House  
to Amendment for Direct Election of  
Senators; Local Option Bill is Pre-

HARRISBURG, Feb. 4.—Representative McDermott of Clearfield county introduced a bill today in the House which would make it unlawful to use any type of mining machine in the removal of ribs, stumps or pillars in bituminous mines, and also submitted a bill providing changes in the qualifications for Mine Inspectors.

The amendment to the legislative Sunday law was reported unfavorably to the House today by the Law and Order Committee. The bill reported favorably was providing for the suppression of disorderly houses; a non-creating act; providing that platforms of trolley cars winter be enclosed; semi-monthly pay bill; a uniform divorce bill; providing that the standard weight of a ton of coal at mines be 2,400 pounds; providing for a one mill road tax.

Representative John Francis Lowers of Bradford, is preparing a resolution for introduction in the House for the suppression of disorderly houses; a non-creating act; providing that platforms of trolley cars winter be enclosed; semi-monthly pay bill; a uniform divorce bill; providing that the standard weight of a ton of coal at mines be 2,400 pounds; providing for a one mill road tax.

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## HARD FIGHT FACES MEN NOW FIGHTING MERCANTILE TAX

State Has Measure Which Repeals  
the Job, but Returns Portion of  
Fees to Counties.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 4.—If the business men of this State succeed in forcing a repeal of the mercantile tax, a sharp is awaiting them. In the Senate, Senator Sproul of Allegheny county has introduced a bill repealing the mercantile tax and by the State Treasurer to the various counties one-half of the net amount of the mercantile license tax. This is a halfway measure and will have the support of the forces who do not wish to see the net little tax law and the positions created under it directly eliminated.

It throws to the various counties the bulk of increased revenues by having returned to them one-half of the net amount of all mercantile license taxes collected under the new devices, wholesale retail, or members of exchange or boards of trade. At the same time it leaves in existence the officials created under the mercantile tax law and their subordinate and makes a provision that the State shall not be liable for the fees or mileage or commissions of the mercantile inspectors.

The mercantile tax law itself and all the burdens it imposes on the small business men are left exactly as before. Tomorrow afternoon the merchants and business men from various parts of the State who are fighting for the repeal of the mercantile tax law will attend a public hearing in the House.

## WANTS FEES REPORTED

Somerset Auditor Asks That Act of  
1901 Be Observed by Officials.

SOMERSET, Feb. 4.—Attorney Alexander King, appointed by the court as Auditor to settle with county officials for the past fiscal year, today notified the official to his accounts showing the amount of fees received. An Act of Assembly passed in 1901 makes such report part of the duties of the Auditor. King is Auditor of Somerset county. He is not unlikely to be enforced.

Judge Ruppel today fixed March 15 as the date for a special election for Shunkville borough when municipal officers will be chosen. Shunkville was incorporated as a borough about the special election and the officials elected at the special election will serve until the next regular election.

Merchant Robert E. Beertis today brought suit against R. C. Armstrong of Somerset to recover \$500 damages. The plaintiff is represented by Attorney Charles F. Chitt. It is alleged that Armstrong was responsible for a collision between a car and a horse-drawn automobile on the State road between Storetown and Bedford last July.

## HOSE COMPANY STRIKES

Mount Pleasant Organization Possibly  
Over Council's Actions.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Feb. 4.—Mount Pleasant fire protection has been organized by one hose company. The third ward organization is on strike because Council last night ordered that a new building be erected. The new building was \$2,250 and Council could not see the money in sight. As a consequence the Third Ward Company has decided it will answer no fire alarms. This leaves two companies to receive \$500 damages from the fire. The hose company is now on strike.

Council decided to seek quarters for the firemen and a room in which they could meet at a cost of \$2,250. The new building was \$2,250 and Council could not see the money in sight. As a consequence the Third Ward Company has decided it will answer no fire alarms. This leaves two companies to receive \$500 damages from the fire. The hose company is now on strike.

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## FINDS BURGLAR IN HOME; IS TARGET FOR BULLETS

Chief Train Dispatcher Rilling Gives Chase to the Man on  
the South Side at Early Hour.

## THREE SHOTS AIMED AT HIM

Upon Returning Home, Baltimore &  
Ohio Man Fined, Burglar at Work;  
Fights to Make Him Prisoner, But  
the Man is Able to Escape Capture.

Finding a burglar at work in his home at an early hour Thursday, Chief Train Dispatcher Joseph Rilling of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, unarmed gave battle with the man. Although the burglar fired three times, the bullets barely missing their mark, Mr. Rilling did not give up the chase until he heard the cries of his wife for assistance. Thinking another man was still in the house, he picked up his assault to escape. Mr. Rilling lives on West Cedar avenue.

The robbery was most daring. The burglar, evidently familiar with Mr. Rilling's home, entered the house through a dining room window. He made no effort at stealth. Mr. Rilling heard the man at work but because of the noise he made supposed it was his husband. She had left a lunch for him before retiring.

It was shortly before 2 o'clock that Mr. Rilling turned home. As was his custom he walked along the cement pavement to the rear porch. As he stepped off the walk to clean his shoes, he felt the rear stairs door open.

"Damn you, get out," commanded the burglar. Before he had time to move, the man fired. The shot went wild. Mr. Rilling is a big man. He ran to the door and threw his weight against it. There was a slight struggle. Possessing the advantage of being several feet higher than the burglar, the burglar succeeded in forcing the door open. He pointed the revolver in Rilling's direction. As the burglar fired, Rilling knocked the weapon upwards. The bullet missed his head by less than a foot and imbedded itself in the side of the door.

The man dashed from the porch and started for the rear gate. Although it was exceptionally dark, the burglar did not make a false start. Rilling was giving chase when a third shot was fired at him. It also missed his mark.

At this time Mrs. Rilling began screaming for assistance. Hearing her cries, Mr. Rilling assumed that another man was still in the house. He dropped the chase, permitting the burglar to escape, and entered his home. No trace of another was found.

Investigation disclosed that the man had made a slight search of the lower floor. Drawers in the bureau had been looted, everything was in confusion and even the beds had been removed. The burglar and other articles of his were found.

As far as could be determined, the intruder obtained about sixty cents in change. The matter was referred to the police last night. Mr. Rilling explained that he was a big man and the burglar left no other than that he wore a sack coat. "I never thought about being shot," Mr. Rilling said afterwards. "When I think of the burglar I left no other than that he wore a sack coat. I was, but he made me and I was determined to get him."

When he opened that storm door the first time and the burglar got out of here, I made up my mind I would not let him. I would have to, but for the fact that I thought he had a pistol. The burglar left no other than that he wore a sack coat. I was, but he made me and I was determined to get him."

The robbers entered the color in the home of H. W. Miller on Patterson avenue and stole a basket of potatoes. The burglar left no other than that he wore a sack coat. I was, but he made me and I was determined to get him."

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## OLD RESIDENT DEAD

Michael R. Patterson Well Known  
Throughout the County.

Following a three-month illness, Michael R. Patterson, 69 years old, a well known West Side resident, died late Monday afternoon at his home, No. 129 North Sixth street, West Side. He had been confined to his bed for three weeks. Funeral Thursday morning at 11 o'clock from the family residence, the Rev. S. B. McFadden officiating. Interment in the Presbyterian cemetery at Laurel Hill.

Mr. Patterson was born on a farm in Franklin township, near Perryopolis, December 7, 1852, and lived on the old home place until 18 years ago. He was a son of David P. and Anna E. Patterson who were among the most prominent residents of Franklin township. His mother died in October, 1904 and his father in March, 1905. Mr. Patterson was a Republican and was out for the last time on last election day.

He was a member of the United Presbyterian church. For five years he was in the bakery business. He never married. The following sisters survive: Mrs. David Fairhill, of Dunbar township; Mrs. Cooper Patterson of the West Side, and Miss Rebecca Patterson, with whom he resided. A sister, Mrs. Mary Johnson, is deceased.

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elector teacher of general science and mathematics at the Riverside High School in Pittsburg at the salary of \$1,400 a year.

Subscribe for The Weekly Courier

livered by William Meigs. A short address was also made by J. W. Wilder of South Connelleshire. Following the program which consisted of literary and musical selections was a social hour and luncheon.

Free—320 page book—**Gaso-**  
l  
Waryn Oil Works Co., Pitts-  
LAMP OILS LUBR.

## REAL COMPETITION IN FREIGHT RATES EXISTS HERE NOW

Western Maryland and Lake Erie Go After the Coal Traffic.

## SLASH THE EASTERN RATES

Rate From Pittsburgh District to Baltimore Materially Reduced and the R. & O. Meets the Cut; P. R. R. Will Follow; Discrimination Removed.

The Western Maryland and Lake Erie railroad combination is getting ready to make the rails hot between Conneltsville and Cumberland with a goodly share of the Pittsburgh coal trade to Atlantic Coast points, and coincidentally to increase that business to something worth while by reducing the freight rate 15 cents per ton and removing the discrimination hitherto practiced against the Pittsburgh district in favor of the Fairmont and other West Virginia regions.

The new coal rate, which has just been announced, is \$1.45 per gross ton to Baltimore piers. This has been the rate long enjoyed by the Fairmont operators notwithstanding their mines are practically the same distance from the seaboard. The Pennsylvania and New River districts have a slightly lower rate notwithstanding their mines are much further away. At the same time the Pittsburgh operators have been paying \$1.55 per ton.

The new rate has already attracted Pittsburgh coal shipments to eastern markets over the Western Maryland and Lake Erie. The Baltimore & Ohio has been prompt to meet the cut in rates. The Pennsylvania has made no announcement of its intentions and is maintaining the old rate for the Monongahela division whence the principal portion of the Lake Erie and Western Maryland coal comes; but the Pennsylvania never allows its shippers to be discriminated against, and it is expected that it will meet the Western Maryland rate.

The extension to which the old rate has discriminated against the Pittsburgh district is better illustrated in the following compilation showing the difference between the rates for the following districts to Baltimore and the rate per gross ton hitherto charged:

Miles, District.	Rate.
312 Pittsburgh	\$1.55
311 Fairmont	1.45
293 Peachbottom	1.40
428 New River	1.40

The Pittsburgh coal district has been discriminated against in freight rates from every quarter. The operators, represented by John W. Bessie, began a fight before the Interstate Commerce Commission a couple of years ago against the discriminatory rate to Lake ports. The commission ordered a reduction of the Pittsburgh rates from \$5 to 75 cents per ton, whereupon the railroad granted similar reductions to the West Virginia operators, thus continuing the discrimination. The commission was then asked to reduce the Pittsburgh rate still further, or to take such action as might be effective to remove the discrimination, but the commission refused to further intervene.

The present reduction in the rate means that coal coming to get what it came after, namely, a proper share of the coal and coke business of the Pittsburgh and Conneltsville regions.

## LUMBER DEAL PENDING

Big Company Expected to Exercise Options Covering Big Tract.

The closing of the deal for the purchase of a big tract of timber land by the United Lumber Company in Ohio, Michigan and Jefferson townships, Somerset county, is looked for in a short time as their options are about to expire. The plan of the company, which is made up principally of Connettsville and Pittsburgh capitalists, have not been made known.

When the company first started to operate in that section 5,000 acres were purchased and 15 miles of standard gauge railroad constructed. Since that time 2,000 additional acres have been purchased and recently between 12,000 and 14,000 acres were optioned. The land is said to be underlaid with an excellent seam of coal, in fact the tract adjoins the famous Quemaing field.

The timber on the tract is all hardwood, chestnut, oak and poplar. At the present time more than 1,500,000 feet of timber are being shipped each month. The company enjoys a low lumber freight rate to the eastern markets and the property is so located as to give it a good coal rate once the coal is developed.

The extension of the railroad from a point three miles beyond Burrowsville to Bakersville will begin early in the spring. When this is completed the company will own 55 miles of standard gauge railroad providing connection with the Baltimore & Ohio through the Ulenia & North Fork railroad at Ulenia. The road is used entirely as a freight road, but it is said that passenger service is to be inaugurated soon.

## TROUBLE SETTLED

Brush Run Management Adjusts Differences With Men.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Jan. 30.—Differences between Brush Run Coal & Coke Company, operating a 30 oven plant near here, have been adjusted and the 40 men who have been idle for several days have returned.

A difference between the men and one of the bosses resulting in the plant being shut down pending a settlement of the dispute. After investigating the matter, the officials of the company discharged the boss and the men were put back to work.

Have You Coal Land for Sale? If you have advertise in The Weekly Courier.

## STEEL MEN WHO CAME HERE STILL LOOKING FOR A SITE

Ohio Towns Have Hopes of Landing Plant Which Was to Have Come Here; No Choice Made.

The proposed concern that was to be known as the Conneltsville Steel Company and to have a location on the J. A. Guiler farm, is seeking other sites.

The consideration that was given Conneltsville is reported transferred to several other places without any apparent approach towards a decision upon a desired town or city. The Cleveland Iron Trade Review says of the project:

"Open-hearth steel sheet and tin bars, steel sheets and black plates will be manufactured by a proposed company being promoted by Archie Smith, Tarantula, and other experienced steel men formerly employed by the Allegheny Steel Company. The company will be incorporated soon, according to present plans, and a site chosen within a few weeks."

"As the company expects to sell the greater part of its sheet and tin bar production, an Ohio site may be considered, if arrangements can be made to obtain hot metal from some blast furnace. In this connection, Cleveland has been viewed by some back of the project as an ideal location. Other places which have been given consideration all in Pennsylvania, are Sharpsburg, Sharpsburg, Conneltsville and some locations on the Monongahela river."

"The heavy consumption of sheet and tin bar at Canton, Massillon and Canal Dover, O., may be an important factor when a decision as to location is made and may have a strong bearing on choosing Cleveland."

"About 700 men will be employed in the operation of the works when completed and the monthly payroll will reach \$500,000. Because of its size, there is likely to be some sharp competition among the towns and boroughs that are interested in securing the industry."

## IMPROVEMENTS PROGRESS

Edgar Thomson Extension is Rapidly Nearing Completion.

Aided by unusually favorable weather, the Carnegie Steel Company has been making good progress on the extensions at Edgar Thomson despite the general scarcity of materials and men. There are 14 open-hearth furnaces, to make Edgar Thomson an open-hearth as well as a Bessemer operation. These were scheduled to be completed May first. It is now practically certain that some of the furnaces will be placed in operation shortly after April first and it is expected that all the 14 furnaces will be in operation by July first.

The replacement of the No. 1 mill at Edgar Thomson by a new mill will require some time yet, and the new mill will not be in full operation for perhaps a year. This project was announced long ago, before the open-hearth extension. The present mill is a regular rail mill, while the new mill will be fitted to roll rails or other products.

The Edgar Thomson plant has been rolling open-hearth rails more or less for some time, using steel shipped from Homestead. This practice is now becoming regular, and until open-hearth steel is made regularly at Edgar Thomson there will be a regular tonnage of open-hearth rails made from crude steel drawn from the Homestead works. This curiously curtails the output of finished product at Homestead, particularly in plates and shapes.

## TESTING COAL

Activity in Southern Somerset County is Marked at This Time.

Unusual activity is being manifested in mineral circles in southern Somerset county since the result of the drilling in Upper Turkeyfoot township has been made public.

A company composed of C. W. Kutz of Ulenia, eastern capitalists, who own about 7,000 acres of mineral land in the vicinity of Kingswood have had test holes drilled on the Kutz and Keger farms, and the result shows that the land is underlaid with a vein of excellent steam coal varying from 54 to 62 inches in thickness. An analysis has shown this coal to be superior in quality to that of the Humbert field.

The 7,000 acres of this company lay along the Laurel Hill Creek valley and is known as the Johnstown-Confessure basin. It was generally conceded among coal men that this part of the basin which alone remains undeveloped, contained the same coal as the upper part of the basin, in which are located the Boswell, Jenner, Quemaing and Jerome fields.

## PHONE INQUIRY ORDERED

Interstate Commerce Body's Probe to Include Pittsburgh Complaint.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has issued its formal order for the inquiry into the affairs of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, transferred recently to the Commission from the Department of Justice by Attorney General Wickersham. The Commission has not set dates or places for the hearings.

The Commission's probe will include investigation of the company's financial operations, rates and growth. The commission also will look into complaints from Pittsburgh that the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is granting certain persons a flat unlimited rate of \$125 a year, and exacting higher charges from others.

## TAKING UP COAL

Buyers Ready to Exercise Options for Indian Creek Coal.

Operators with options on Indian Creek coal are reported to be preparing to take up deeds for approximately 25,000 acres.

The Indian Head Coal & Mining Company took up one deed for 125 acres of coal with sufficient surface acreage for working from the Kulp and Richer heirs. This land came into the Kulp and Richer families through a patent granted in 1815. It adjoined a tract owned by Zacharias Connel, founder of Conneltsville.

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## WEATHER A HANDICAP

It is Holding Back Work on the Cheat River Dam.

Construction work on the great dam which the West Penn is erecting in the Cheat river at Cheat Haven to manufacture electric power, has been retarded by the rains of the past few weeks, and little progress has been made during this month, according to Squire H. O'Neill of Smithfield, who recently visited the work.

Weather conditions have hindered the work to such an extent that contractors have been compelled to lay off men. Scores have been unable to work, as hundreds of tons of clay and mud have been washed down into the operations. The river bottom for the distance of a mile below the seat of the dam is a veritable sea of mud, making it almost impossible to haul building material to the scene of operations.

During the months that the vast enterprise has been in progress, wonders in the construction line have been wrought. Thousands of yards of earth have been removed from hills on both sides of the river, and on the east side of the stream great excavations have been completed for the foundations.

Order among the many men employed on the work is not difficult to maintain, and this adds greatly to the efficiency of the corps. Special Policemen George Grub is the only representative of law and order on the site, and he experiences little difficulty in handling the situation.

Material for the work is hauled from the Cheat Haven station of the Baltimore & Ohio. It is a considerable distance and on account of the almost impassable condition of the roads, much trouble is experienced by teamsters in making deliveries.

It is estimated that the work will require more than two years before it reaches completion.

## RELIEF BENEFITS

P. R. R. Spends More Than \$2,500,000 for Its Members in 1912.

More than two and one-half million dollars in benefits were paid in 1912 to members of the Relief Funds of the Pennsylvania Railroad System. This was made public yesterday in a report issued by the company which showed that since the funds for both lines east and west of Pittsburgh were established some twenty-seven years ago, \$4,745,671 have been distributed to members or their families.

Payments to the families of members who have died during the past year amounted to \$1,712,122, while \$1,759,265.90 were distributed to those incapacitated for work. In December alone, these figures amounted to \$91,825.40 and \$93,754.40, respectively.

On the lines east of Pittsburgh, \$1,127,200.66 were distributed last year, \$1,211,552.20 for the relief of members unable to work, and \$601,153.45 to the families of members who died. On the lines west of Pittsburgh the total disbursements amounted to \$231,630.45 for the year, representing \$337,714.80 on account of sickness and \$273,916.66 on account of death.

## FOR SAFE MINING

Important Conference This Week to Guard Against Gas Danger.

An important meeting of coal mine operators, gas and oil well operators, mine inspectors and geologists will be held next Friday and Saturday in the rooms of the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh to consider means of eliminating the danger from gas in mine districts where oil and gas wells are plentiful.

The meeting will be attended, among others, by Dr. Joseph A. Holmes, director of the United States Bureau of Mines, Dr. T. C. White, State Geologist of West Virginia, while it is expected that mine inspectors from a number of States also will be present.

In many sections, particularly in West Virginia, the frequent presence of gas has made the operation of coal fields a most important problem, and there will be an earnest effort to devise means of overcoming the handicap. The question of the loss of life and property by gas will also be considered at the meeting, which will be held on the morning and afternoon of both days.

## RAIL BUSINESS

Western Pennsylvania Projects Will Give Mills Many Orders.

There is every reason to look for a fairly active demand for standard section steel rails for use in Western Pennsylvania this spring. The plan of the Pennsylvania railroad for extensions into Washington and Greene counties and also the adopted plan for the building of 40 miles of new road by the Pittsburgh Coal Company and some added coal lines of the New York Central system means approximately 125 miles of new road will be built this season.

Contracts for the new Montour road have been awarded already to a large extent, especially for grading and some more bridge building, and the remainder of the work will be in the hands of builders in a few days. It is proposed to have the new work started with the opening of spring. Export rail demand is keeping up heavily and some large orders are being placed on the books.

## OPEN MINING SCHOOL

United Coal Company Erects Building at Jerome for the Men.

Secretary T. B. Ditts of the State of West Virginia, Department of Mines, has opened a new M. C. A. building in the mining town of Jerome, Somerset county.

The United Coal Company erected the building, a modern two-story structure, 24x100 feet. It is equipped with bowling alleys and reading, game and class rooms.

Tract of Coal Land Optioned. J. E. Barnes of Pittsburgh has secured options on 2,500 acres of coal land in Whitely township, Greene county at \$400 an acre. It was reported here that he secured the options for the Pittsburgh Coke & Coal Company and that the options extend for 90 days.

## Labor World Notes.

Massachusetts has 192,000 unionists.

Twenty States have free employment bureaus.

Master mechanics at the various navy yards have received substantial wage increases.

Wages in Japan have risen 50 per cent in ten years, the cost of living 33 per cent.

British Columbia Chinese have formed a union and demand forty cents an hour for digging potatoes.

A vigorous campaign is to be made to bring the zinc miners of Missouri into the fold of unionism.

Patternmakers' unions propose to take a referendum vote on an international convention this year.

Milwaukee working girls are organizing co-operative buying clubs to reduce the high cost of living.

Thirty thousand members of the Christian labor union in the coal mines of Prussia have gone on a strike.

There are 935 local unions with a membership of 71,514 in the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union.

Arizona has adopted a law that prohibits an alien from being employed on any public work within its jurisdiction.

Since January 1 every member of a labor organization in St. Louis has the seal of the American Red Cross Society on its working card.

A free employment bureau for unskilled labor has been established in San Diego, Cal., under the auspices of the Federated Trades and Labor Council.

An effort is to be made by organized labor to obtain better pay for postoffice clerks, and the movement will have the backing of the American Federation of Labor.

The Plumbers' International Union now has 345 locals, an average of \$3 a day, and in most cases the locals have an eight hour day and a Saturday half holiday.

The lace industry of Belgium gives employment to about 45,000 women and girls, some of whom begin their apprenticeship when only six or eight years of age.

Women teachers of Glasgow, Scotland, are campaigning in favor of equal pay with men. They are in the prospect of winning a victory, public sentiment being generally on their side.

Haverhill (Massachusetts) master barbers, who have refused to grant the demands of the barbers' union for a 1913 contract, are being urged by women barbers to take the place of the strikers.

## NEW P. R. R. BRANCH

Invasion of the Greene County Coal Field is in View.

The Pennsylvania railroad is reported making active preparations for the construction of a branch from Van Eman station on the Chartiers Valley line to Marianna in the Ten Mile Valley. This will open up a new territory.

Indications are that the construction of the road will be begun within a few months. A representative of the company has been procuring the last of the needed rights of way, and plans are to be drawn and bids asked within a short time, according to rumor.

Although Marianna has been mentioned as the objective point, residents of the Marianna field believe the branch will be extended to Waynesburg, opening up a big coal acreage.

From Van Eman the road will follow the Little Chartiers creek valley to Eighty-four and from there to Clyde on the National pike. Three routes from that place to Marianna have been proposed, but the one believed most likely is along the Brush Run valley to East Pine, then along the North Ten Mile Creek valley to near Marianna, and then the main valley of the Ten Mile creek to Marianna.

From Marianna a way through the hills to Ruff's creek would lead to an even grade to Waynesburg. It has been pointed out.

## INCREASING CAPITAL

P. R. R. Will Add \$100,000,000; Much of It for Improvements.

The Pennsylvania railroad in the next few weeks will announce an increase of \$100,000,000 in its capitalization. This will make the capital stock \$550,877,500.

By the sale of this stock the company proposes to use \$12,200,000 to pay for its share of Baltimore & Ohio 4 1/2 per cent bonds, \$9,710,000 for the Norfolk & Western's new bonds, \$1,000,000 for new equipment and \$20,000,000 improvements planned in and about Philadelphia and the remainder for outstanding obligations maturing this year.

The gross earnings of the Pennsylvania system for the last year averaged more than \$1,000,000 a day. They were \$271,410,120 for the 12 months ended December 31, an increase over 1911 of \$6,895,912.

The net operating revenue was \$32,268,426, which was an increase of \$8,100,007 over the previous year's earnings, showing the system enjoyed the greatest era of prosperity in its history.

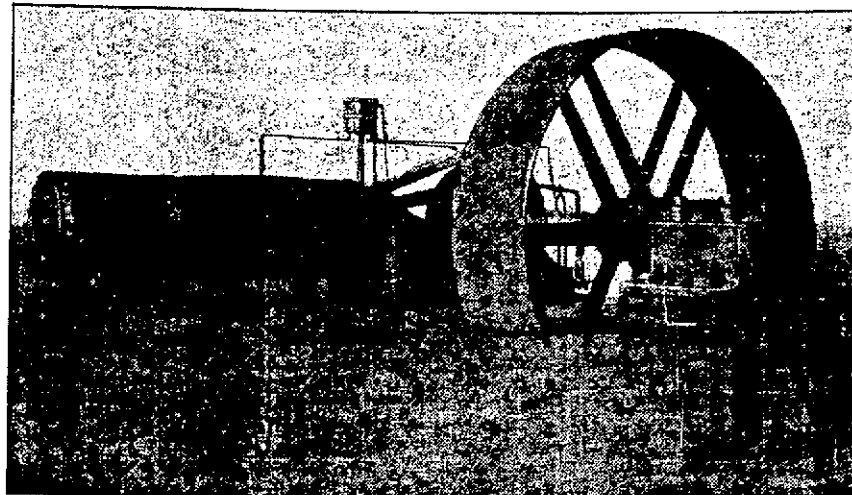
How Much Coal Land. The Bunsen Coal Company has over 25,000 acres of coal lands in the vicinity of Darville, Illinois, and the new mine to be sunk in February will be located a half a mile west of that city.

Cleveland Carpenters Get Increase. Cleveland Ohio union carpenters will receive an increase of five cents on the minimum wage scale, beginning April 15 next, making the rate 60 cents a hour.

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